

Chairman Thompson: What did you tell him?

Secretary Babbitt: Well, I've repeated that several times. I said I believe – what I believe I've said is that Mr. Ickes expects me or Mr. Ickes wants me to make a decision.⁶⁷²

Babbitt also denied any recollection of having made any remark about campaign contributions to Eckstein, although he said at one point it was “conceivable.”⁶⁷³ The issue had not been addressed in Eckstein's affidavit, but had been covered in Eckstein's Senate deposition as reported in the media, and Eckstein had provided more details in his testimony before the Committee that same day.

Babbitt expanded on his remarks that he invoked Ickes because Ickes was his “point of contact on many Interior matters”⁶⁷⁴ and provided some examples, none of which involved matters related to Indian affairs. Responding to Sen. Lieberman, Babbitt said he had only irregular contact with Ickes, “once every 6 weeks maybe.”⁶⁷⁵

5. Secretary Babbitt's Testimony Before the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee

The House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, chaired by Rep. Dan Burton (R-Ind.), began investigating the Hudson matter as part of its investigation of possible

⁶⁷²*Id.* at 246.

⁶⁷³*Id.* at 277.

⁶⁷⁴*Id.* at 239.

⁶⁷⁵*Id.* at 282.